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Access to E-Resources by Librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria

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ACCESS TO
E-RESOURCES BY LIBRARIANS IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NIGER DELTA REGION, NIGERIA

By

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated Access to Electronic Resources by Librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria. The descriptive research design was adopted for this study using 73 items self-structured questionnaire to collect data. In selecting the university libraries, the researcher applied the stratified random sampling technique to select the universities. One hundred and fifty (150) librarians were selected from three (3) centrally located states which include Delta, Bayelsa, and Edo from the nine (9) Niger Delta States from a target population of four hundred and thirty-two (432) librarians. seven research questions were formulated to guide the study. A reliability coefficient index of 0.87 was obtained from the instrument using Cronbach's Alpha Guttman split-half Coefficient. Additionally, it was strongly recommended that Institution's authorities and governments should provider internet, ICT facilities for all to enjoy free flow for effective and efficient access to e-resources.

Keywords: Access, E-resources, University Librarians, University Libraries, Niger Delta

INTRODUCTION

The library has always played a crucial role in the development of civilization from time immemorial and regarded as a service-oriented organization wherein the information needs of the users are satisfied. Academic libraries are connected to higher educational institutions, such as universities, polytechnic institutions, colleges of education, and colleges of technology. These libraries are generally mandated to support the course of teaching, learning, and research to achieve the missions of their parent institutions. University library acquires collections in broad terms of quantity and quality in the form of prints and electronic to support the teaching, learning, research and recreational purposes, (Weber and Flatley 2008). Libraries worldwide are

digitizing materials and offering full-text documents or images to clientele via their websites and Compact Disc Read-Only Memory (CD-ROM). Digital collections usually consist of local content and provide unlimited access to materials that are not readily accessible.

Electronic Resources (e-resources) is an enhancement of information and communication technology (ICT). It becomes popular or more effective with the invention of the Internet and its rapid growth. Electronic resources are concepts which evolved as a result of the rapid growth of information and communication technology. It has been described by different authors in different ways. Shukla and Mishra (2011) described electronic collection as the collection of information which can be accessed only by the use of electronic gadgets. E-resources have revolutionized the field of information. It is rare to find any standard library that is not subscribing to e-resources nowadays; either open or close access subscriptions. E-resources are regarded as important library/learning resources all over the world. Many libraries have already replaced their physical holdings with e-resources. The International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) (2012) described electronic resources as those materials that require computer access, whether through a personal computer, mainframe, or hand-held mobile devices. They may be accessed remotely via the internet or locally. Some of the most frequently encountered types are: E-journals, E-books, Full-text (aggregated) databases, indexing and abstracting databases, Reference databases (biographies, dictionaries, directories, encyclopaedias, etc.), Numeric and statistical databases, E-images, E-audio/visual resources. Libraries are doing extensive work to make e-resources available to their users and keeping them abreast of the latest developments in their field of interest. Access to e- resources through the Internet is gaining prominence because of the inherent advantages of the Internet over media such as CD-ROMs and advancement in web technology. With the emergence of Information and

Communication Technology (ICT), electronic resources that can be accessed by university libraries are of different types and formats. They come in the form of digital which can only be accessed with the use of internet aided by computer and made available to the library. The rapid growth of (ICT) has given rise to the evolution of several new terms like paperless society, e-resources, digital library. Words like digital content, electronic library containing e-journals, e-books, journal consortiums, open access, digital library, Digital Rights Management (DRM) all have become simply buzzwords along with the traditional analogue or print resources in the present library system (Chaudhuri,2012).

Statement of the Problem

What should be appreciated is that academic libraries acquire electronic resources on a large scale but unfortunately, patrons do not use them on the same scale (Weiner, 2003). An informal investigation conducted by the researchers indicated that the subscribed e-resources available to patrons are not efficiently utilized even by the librarians which are the custodian of the resources. Some librarians are not aware of the availability of the e-resources at the library. Also, some of them were not competent in the use of computers, let alone accessing e-resources. Above all, inadequate infrastructural facilities like computers and bandwidth also hindered accessibility. This study was therefore aimed at investigating access to e-resources by Librarians in Universities Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigerian. Thus, the underlying factors for the under-utilization and inaccessibility of e-resources constituted the rationale for this study.

Objectives of the Study

i. Explore what e-resources categories are accessed by Librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria

ii. Find out the databases used in accessing e-resources by Librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria

iii. Find out where e-resources are accessed by Librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria

iv. Explore the purpose of accessing e-resources by Librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria

v. Determine the benefit of e-resources by Librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study will help librarians acquire and improved their e-resources knowledge efficiently in data access, usage and sharing.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Sivakami and Rajendran (2019) defines E-resources as a resource which require computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, E-journals, images collections, other multimedia product and numerical, graphical or time based, as a commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. E-Resources usually consist of E-Journals, E-Books, E-Databases, E-Magazines, E-Thesis, E-News Papers, E-Dictionaries, E-Encyclopaedia, abstract, full-text documents and digital collections, online databases, web sites which are likely to be the alternative to the print media. Today information is vast and readily available and in many classes. They can be simply defined as resources that include documents in electronic or e-format that can be accessed via Internet. They are available in various forms like e-books, digital libraries, online journal, magazine, e-learning tutors, on line test e-journals, e-discussions, e-news, data archives and e-mail on line chatting and deliver a collection of data, be it text, image collection, other multimedia products

like numerical, graphical mode. Emerald, Ebscohost, Research4life, Directory of open Access Journals and Books and Jstor are some of the examples of online databases. In this information and technology age, libraries need to provide services that run on the media used by the library users, such as mobile phones, smart phones, tablets, laptops, and personal computers (PC). Dresselhaus and Shrode (2012) the survey described use of mobile in academic libraries. Students were lot of interested in use of information through mobile. Survey concluded that academic libraries can arrange different types mobile of application for various library services. Sharma (2019) in is study of Access and use of electronic resources by the faculty members and research scholars of social sciences in Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Haryana that 2/5th of them (39.3%) use e-resources in their hostel almost equal percentage (38.6%) access from Vivekananda Library Maharshi Dayanand University. Those users who are using from their own department library are 30.6%, while very few of them are accessing at their home. Aregbesola and Oguntayo (2014) conducted a research study the use of electronic resources by faculty members in Landmark University, Omu-Aran. The findings of the study revealed that faculty members use electronic resources for academic purposes. Having access to wide range of books and journals, increased access to current materials, and, to carryout research are the major motivations of electronic resources use by faculty members. Habiba and Chowdhury (2012) in their study, states that users use electronic resources for many purposes. According to the respondents, 54.0 percent users mostly used electronic resources for learning, 35.0 percent used e-resources for current information, 6.0 percent used electronic resources for research purpose and 5.0 percent used electronic resources for teaching purpose. electronic resources have become very important these days as they are up-to-date, multi- dimensional and directional in nature and also can be accessed as well as used anywhere, crossing all geographical boundaries. Such

resources add value to all spheres of human activities. Okoye and Ejikeme (2010) identified the benefits of using open access journals to include the followings It provides an increased citation to published scholarly work; Publications are made free for authors, it increases the impact of researchers work, articles can be accessed online free of charge, it provides free online access to the literature necessary for one's research, it helps in career development It provides high-quality scholarly work. Ray and Day (1998) cited by Ugwu and Orsu (2017) stated that students use online information resources for three main reasons; access to a wider range of information, faster access to information, and easier access to information. The realities of the present information age as a result of the evolution of information and communication technologies (ICT) have brought about radical changes in teaching, learning, and research. According to Daramola (2016) The use of online resources in university libraries is aimed at "broadening the range of available information resources within the library and adding value to the content by making them accessible through digital means so that students, researchers, and the entire members of the university community can access them anytime and anywhere" (p. 366). According to Khan (2012), access to e-journals is generally provided either by the publisher or through their aggregators. E-journals have provided excellent opportunities to access scholarly information, which were previously beyond the reach of libraries due to geographical constraints. An advantage of e-resources includes no physical space required and accessibility from almost any workstation that can be connected remotely to the institution's network. Daramola further states that the library within the university systems provides the infrastructures and internet facilities to enhance student's accessibility of online resources. Thus e-resources can be accessed round the clock across geographical barriers which make e-resources accessible at the tip of your finger. E-journals which are one of e-resources also offer the benefit of full-text searching and

downloading of articles. Chandra, Sankaranarayanan, Nagarajan and Mani (2014) presented the results of an investigation in the study on Use Pattern of E-Resources among Faculty Members in Arts and Science Colleges in Chennai concluded that most of the respondents were aware of e-resources available in their college library. They have accessed e-resources for their study and research purpose.

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The study focused on universities libraries in Niger Delta region, Nigerian. The population of the study was four hundred and thirty-two (432), all thirty-nine (39) university libraries approved by the National University Commission (NUC) from the nine (9) Niger Delta states. A sample size of one hundred and fifty (150) librarians selected from three (3) centrally located states which include Delta, Bayelsa, and Edo from the nine (9) Niger Delta States. Structured questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection for the study. The questionnaire was structured into two sections. Section 1 contained responses on the demographic data of respondents, while section 2 was designed to address the questions on e-resources accessed by librarians, devices used, databases used, places used, purposes, benefits and challenges.150 copies of questionnaire were administered to respondents, while 131 copies were returned. Data collected were analyzed using frequency table and percentages. All analyses were done using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 23).

Table 1: Questionnaire Response

Number of Questionnaire Administered	Number of Questionnaire Returned	Percentage of Questionnaire Returned
150	131	87%

A total of 150 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and 131 (87%) copies were returned. The response rate of (87%) is considered adequate for the study. This is because

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according to Dulle, Minish-Majanja and Cloete (2010) the standard and acceptable response rate

for most studies is 60%.

Answering of the Research Questions

Research Question Three: What e-resources are accessed through by librarians in University

Libraries in Niger Delta, Nigeria?

Table 2: E-resources accessed by librarians

e-resources accessed by librarians	SA	A	D	SD	Mean
E-Journals	58	47	26	0	3.24
E-Books	62	21	48	0	3.12
Full text Database	47	31	53	0	2.95
Indexing and Abstract Database	66	48	17	0	3.37
Reference Database	67	12	62	0	3.11
E-Dictionaries	54	25	52	0	3.02
E-Directories	39	75	17	0	3.20
E-Encyclopeadia	54	33	44	0	3.07
Numerica and Statistical	48	53	30	0	3.15
E-Images	57	74	0	0	3.44
E-Audio/Visual	53	4	74	0	2.84

Aggregate Mean	3.14
Criterion Mean	2.50

Table 2 shows that librarians in Niger Delta region agrees that they access the listed e-resources

considering that the aggregate mean of 3.14 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. It is

evident that out of the numerous e-resources listed above, E-images (3.44) is mostly accessed.

Others also mostly accessed are E- Indexing and Abstract Database (3.37), E-journals (3.24), E-

directories (3.20), etc. the likely reason for this is that they are the most commonly used by

librarians for reference purposes while E-Audio/Visual is least used.

Table 4: Databases e-resources accessed by Librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria?

Databases e-resources accessed by librarians	SA	A	D	SD	Mean
Google Scholar	40	78	13	0	3.21
Ebscohost	51	67	13	0	3.29
Jstor	75	35	21	0	3.41
DOAJ	67	39	21	4	3.29
DOAB	43	35	53	0	2.92
Research Gate	43	35	53	0	2.92
Academia edu	51	23	57	0	2.95
Youtube	25	93	13	0	3.09
OPAC	53	62	16	0	3.28
Research4life	39	92	0	0	3.30
Institutional E-Repository		48	39	44	2.03

Aggregate Mean/SD   3.06

Criterion Mean   2.50

Table 4 above shows that the librarians access e-resources from listed databases with an aggregate mean of 3.06 which is more than the criterion mean of 2.50, it can be concluded that Librarians in University libraries access e-resources databases. The most access databases were the Jstor (3.41), Research4life (3.30) Ebscohost (3.29), DOAJ (3.29) and OPAC (3.28) respectively. Institutional E-Repository (2.03) was less than criterion mean of 2.50. it can be deduced from the above that the respondents are not well informed or the awareness level of their institutional e-repository is low.

Research Question 5: Where is e-resources accessed by Librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria?

Table 5: Places where e-resources are accessed through cloud computing

Places where e-resources accessed by librarians	SA	A	D	SD	Missing	Mean
Home	79	39	5	0	8	3.60
Library	40	13	35	12	31	2.81
Office	79	39	5	4	4	3.52
Cybercafé	45	14	63	5	4	2.78

	25	64	42	0	0	2.87
ICT Centres	25	64	42	0	0	2.87
Valid N (listwise)	98					

Aggregate Mean/SD   3.12

Criterion Mean   2.50

It is found in the table 5 above that majority of librarians prefers to access e-resources through from home (3.60) and offices (3.52). The aggregate mean of 3.12 of the above table which is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. Indicates that e-resources can be accessed anywhere at any time as long as there is internet. This finding is in tune to Daramola (2016) which stated that use of online resources in university libraries is aimed at "broadening the range of available information resources within the library and adding value to the content by making them accessible through digital means so that students, researchers, and the entire members of the university community can access them anytime and anywhere". Aina (2013) also opined that Google has attempted to bypass the library by its "Google search"

Research Question 6: What are the purposes for accessing e-resources by Librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria?

Table 6: Purpose for accessing e-resources through cloud computing by Librarians

Purpose for accessing e-resources by Librarians	SA	A	D	SD	Mean
Research	25	93	13	0	3.09
Learning	87	39	00	5	3.63
Publishing	87	39	5	0	3.63
Seminar Presentation	40	82	9	0	3.24
Teaching	79	39	13	0	3.40
Examinations	75	35	21	0	3.44
To Up Date	35	70	26	0	3.07

Aggregate Mean/SD   3.35

Criterion Mean   2.50

Table 6 above shows that with an aggregate mean of 3.35 which is more than the criterion mean of 2.50, it can be concluded that the Librarians in University libraries access e-resources for different purposes. The respondent's mostly access e-resources for learning (3.63) and publishing (3.63). Research (3.09), teaching (3.40), examination (3.44), seminar presentation

(3.24), etc. where also purpose for accessing e-resources. This conforms to Mahalakshmi (2014) analytical study about the use of electronic resources by faculty and students in higher education which revealed that (105%) of the respondents aware about the e-resources. Nearly (45.33%) of them use the e-resources for their subject purpose, (43%) of them use the e-resources for their education purpose, (15.42%) of them entertainment (33.18%) of them references their subject work.

Table 7: showing the frequency distribution of benefits of e-resources by Librarians

Benefits of accessing e-resources by Librarians	SA	A	D	SD	Mean
Accuracy	76	34	21	0	3.43
Currency	49	43	39	0	3.08
Search Ability	29	89	13	0	3.12
Full-text Retrieval	29	89	13	0	3.12
Convenience	79	43	9	0	3.53
Link to Related Items	39	79	13	0	3.20
Credibility	66	21	44	0	3.17
Prompt Access	43	75	13	0	3.23
Multiuser Access	48	57	26	0	3.17
User-friendly Interface	69	62	0	0	3.53

Aggregate Mean   3.26

Criterion Mean   2.50

Table above shows that there are lots of benefits derived from accessing e-resources with the aggregate mean of 3.26 which is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. All respondents agreed to have benefited from access of e-resources. Majority of the respondents most benefits derived from accessing e-resources was the convenience to access e-resources (3.53), and user-friendly interface (3.53). Prompt access (3.23), Link to Related Items (3.20), Credibility (3.17), Multiuser Access (3.17) were also benefits derived. This implies that librarians' benefits very much from accessing e-resources. This finding confirms that of Okoye and Ejikeme (2010) that stated, articles can be accessed online free of charge and that the advantage of open access journals is that the entire content is available to users everywhere.

Discussion of findings

This study seeks to explore access to e-resources by librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria. This was achieved quantitatively with the use of questionnaires. The findings gathered have been analyzed above. It was discovered that librarians in University Libraries in Niger Delta have access to e-resources, can store e-resources and can share e-resources from databases. It is also found out that librarians can access e-resources using various devices such as Andriod Phones, Laptops, desktop etc. at various places such as Homes, offices, ICT centres. E-resources are used for research purpose, publishing, seminars presentations, teaching, examination and to up-date in the area of study.

It also indicated that there are many problems related with access to e-resources by the respondent with aggregate mean of 3.82. The major challenge as stated in the study is Download is delayed which is caused by network problem and low bandwidth, this finding is supported by the work of Gituma, Masika, Muchangi, Nyagah, Otieno, Irimu, … English (2009) when the reported lack of time, slow internet speed cost as a human hindrance to the use of internet. Irregular power supply that reduces the devices or hardware use due to gadgets not charged. Inadequate IT facilities to receive network e.g., 2g or 3g phones will be slow to access e-resources, low-capacity laptops and desktop will delay download. These concur with Okoye and Ejikeme (2010) who states that inadequate skills to navigate the internet, unstable power supply and many more challenges militate against e-resources access. Poor infrastructures indicated above that the respondents disagreed that it was not a challenge to access e-resources which might be to the use of android phones for access which almost all have.

Conclusion

It can be concluded from the findings that Librarians in University libraries in Niger Delta region of Nigeria have access to e-resources. It was discovered that Librarians in University libraries in Niger Delta region of Nigeria can access, store and share e-resources from their various devices. E-resources were accessed from home and offices than the library from their personal laptops, android phones and desktops. The benefits derived from access to e-resources includes user-friendly, convenience link to related items, credibility, prompt access, and it is multiuser access. However, Librarians in University libraries in Niger Delta region of Nigeria have challenges in their access to e-resources which was mostly download delay for all the librarians due to Network problem, low bandwidth, irregular power supply, and Inadequate IT facilities. Also lack of search skills, lack of awareness and high cost of data for internet is a constraint.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are hereby made:

i. Librarians should be assisted and encouraged to develop technical, and computer literacy skills to enhance their search ability.

ii. Institution's authorities and governments should provider internet, ICT facilities for all to enjoy free flow for effectiveness and efficiency in accessing e-resources.

iii. Libraries should have a strong network and bandwidth to access e-resources and to provide better automated services.

iv. Libraries should have an ICT centres to support users that cannot afford the necessary facilities to access e-resources.

v. Governments and institutions Authorities should organize seminars, workshop and trainings regularly for librarians to keep them updated for new trends in ICT and librarianship.

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